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Copy 8 of 8

30 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation of 29 June, Department of State, Regarding Status of U-2 Ungrounding

1. I met with Messrs. Cumming and Berry in the former's office and at his request to summarize for him recent developments in the skirmish with NASA's ungrounding of the U-2's. The meeting was the result of a talk on 28 June between Dr. Glennen of NASA and Mr. Livingston Merchant, Deputy Under Secretary of State, on the same subject. Mr. Merchant had been away from the U-2 topic for about a month and apparently came into it on 28 June because of the absence of Mr. Raymond Hare, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

2. I reviewed with Mr. Cumming the sample copies of our numerous attempted press releases which have been written over the past two weeks in an effort to obtain NASA concurrence to releasing overseas U-2's for purely local training and proficiency flights. I supplied Mr. Cumming with two copies of our proposed passive release of 16 June which had been agreed to in substance by General Cabell for CIA and General Estes for the Air Force and with which he (Mr. Cumming) had no basic difference when it was talked out with him on the phone about that time.

3. I covered in some detail the context of my rather fruitless discussion with Dr. Glennen and Mr. Horner at NASA 28 June and of my several talks on the same day with Mr. Bissell and General Cabell on how we might proceed in view of the hornets' nest Dr. Glennen had stirred up with General Goodpaster when he (Glennen) had shown the 16 June press release to the General. Apparently, following Glennen's visit to Merchant, Merchant asked Cumming to up-date him on where everyone stood on the ungrounding so that Merchant himself would be able to answer any questions Mr. Herter might put to him on this subject.

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4. Additionally, we reviewed the present location of all CHALICE aircraft overseas and in the States, and in response to Mr. Cumming's question, I indicated that our tentative plan was to reduce ultimately to three in Adana and four at Edwards with the balance presumably being disposed of by giving them to SAC. While I indicated that this move would not be complete until the final pull out of the Detachment in Japan, I made no mention of any contingency agreement regarding [redacted] U-2 program. When Mr. Cumming attempted to question me about the disposition of USAF U-2 aircraft, I made quite a point of declining to comment upon this, stressing that what SAC did with their U-2 aircraft was of no more immediate concern to us than what they did with their B-52's. In my fashion I was able to point out that as a Division we had no cognizance over any SAC U-2 flights conducted over Cuba even though we had participated in preliminary talks on this subject with Mr. Bissell in April of this year. I also said that if Mr. Berry had any question regarding the validity of the requirement for Cuban photography, he should deal directly with J. C. King, Chief, WH Division, and that the only participation we would get involved in, if either Mr. King, Mr. Bissell, or General Cabell directed, was to monitor such a project. Both Mr. Cumming and Mr. Berry seemed satisfied with this agreement.

5. A considerable discussion followed, most of which bordered on the fringes of "where do we go from here". I repeatedly declined to be drawn into this matter at this time, pointing out that Mr. Bissell was in the process of writing a think piece to General Goodpaster on the general subject of our future plans. I did point out, however, that in the light of the announced Russian tests on and after 5 July, there might be considerable validity in examining the Adana Detachment capability to perform HOT SHOPPE missions on the Soviet periphery regardless of the long term outcome of any USSR overflight effort. Mr. Cumming then asked if he could receive a copy of Mr. Bissell's forthcoming paper to General Goodpaster so that he (Mr. Cumming) might properly brief Mr. Herter. I said that I would ask Mr. Bissell if he felt free to circulate copies of this document, but kept to a minimum. I indicated I would suggest to Mr. Bissell that he might telephone Mr. Cumming and give him the substance of this paper for the purpose noted. While Mr. Cumming stated that there was no present plan for Mr. Herter to discuss this matter with General Goodpaster and the President, it was impossible to tell if this might not occur before Mr. Dulles' return next week. He therefore asked that I press with Mr. Bissell on the matter of making him knowledgeable of what our stated aims for the future might be. I continued by saying that it was my own personal view, which I had explained to Mr. Bissell and General Cabell, that given the present unhappy relationship with NASA, our ultimate course might well be to recommend disengagement from NASA, falling back on full reliance upon Air Weather Service as the overseas sponsor of a reduced U-2 program.

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6. As the last point, I mentioned the informally stated [] that in the event of [] disclosure by Mr. Powers at the time of his trial, comment upon this program should emanate from [] and to that end I suggested that we might like to consider deflecting U. S. press inquiries both in the Department of State and NASA [] should this change of circumstances occur. I told Mr. Cumming that I had discussed this matter informally with Mr. Davis of State on 28 June on the phone and intended to call it to Mr. Bonney's attention in NASA as soon as possible. With this course he seemed in agreement. He also stated that he would look into the matter of getting a firm response from Ambassador MacArthur to the coordinated proposal which was sent to Tokyo by the State Department several weeks ago concerning a phased withdrawal of the Atsugi Detachment from Japan.

SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief, EPD-DD/P

CC: DD/P (Copy No. 2)

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